I. AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-14 and 22-29 without prejudice to renewal.

Please enter the amendments to claim 15, as shown below.

1.-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A screening assay for determining a candidate agent's ~~diacylglycerol *O*-acyltransferases~~ diacylglycerol-*O*-acyltransferase (DGAT) modulatory activity, said assay comprising:

(a) contacting a DGAT polypeptide with said candidate agent, wherein said DGAT polypeptide exhibits diacylglycerol-*O*-acyltransferase activity, and wherein said DGAT polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6; and

(b) detecting any change in activity of said DGAT polypeptide compared to a control to determine said candidate agent's DGAT modulatory activity.

16. (Original) The screening assay according to Claim 15, wherein said DGAT modulatory activity is inhibitory activity.

17. (Previously presented) The screening assay according to Claim 15, wherein said DGAT polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 98% amino acid sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6.

18. (Previously presented) The screening assay according to Claim 15, wherein said DGAT polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6.

19. (Original) The screening assay according to Claim 16, wherein said screening assay is an in vitro screening assay.

20. (Original) The screening assay according to Claim 16, wherein said screening assay is an in vivo screening assay.

21. (Original) The screening assay according to Claim 20, wherein said contacting comprises introducing said candidate agent into a cell that includes said DGAT polypeptide.

22.-65. (Canceled)

66. (Previously presented) The screening assay according to Claim 15, wherein said detecting comprises detecting incorporation of a detectably labeled fatty acyl CoA into a diacylglycerol acceptor.